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# WASHINGTON, D. C.

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# THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY

# A NEW ENGLAND GIRL.

BY MARGARET RUSSELL.

# CHAPTER XVII.

"Let me see if I can help him with his death."

"To which I said, 'I can't tell you that.'"

"Will you step into the mistress's room?" Mr. James is asked.

"I met the chambermaid with this message, as I came down stairs to breakfast next morning, and proceeded at once to Mrs. Ellis's private room. James Sanborn was leaning over the bed; without raising his head, or changing his attitude, he beckoned me to approach."

"What is the matter, sir?" I asked, as I came to his side. But I asked no reply, when I looked upon the face lying upon his arm—the vacant stare, the convulsed mouth—the firm, resolute lips away, flaccid, and speechless. He had died of paralysis."

"When did it happen?"

"I found her in this state a few moments since, when, knowing it to be beyond her usual hour of rising, I came to inquire the cause. I sent for Miss Lathrop, because you have more nerve and firmness than the others; besides, she is used to you. Will you have the goodness to stay by her, and rub her side and arm, thus, while I go for a physician? I wish to make as little alarm in the house as possible. You can call in Margaret, if you see anything."

"He spoke as quietly and calmly as if she were only sleeping; but I saw his lip tremble as he laid her head upon the pillow, and the yearning look with which he turned away and left the room was more expressive to me than could have been uttered by words."

"It was two days before she spoke, and then with great difficulty, and only in monosyllables. In the mean time it was said in the school room that the Principal was suffering from 'a slight attack of numbness in the limbs, something resembling paralysis.' Miss Lathrop's duties were willingly assumed by the other teachers, aided by James Sanborn, and she passed night and day by the sick woman's couch, save when James Sanborn sent her out for a breath of fresh air."

"It might have been the fourth or fifth day after the attack, when, as Mr. Sanborn, who spent all his leisure moments there, sat writing a letter under her head, she said, 'I feel a natural vigor, to whom he was writing.'"

"To Michael, mother?"

"You have not told her?"—she did not flinch at her old days among strangers, or to speak of suffering the blow to themselves; they would close her eyes, and lay her in the grave. If I misjudged his goodness when Master Philip turned from us, and Miss Helen's trouble came to my knowledge, I was anxious to see her to my life, and Miss Lathrop's to my life."

"He looked at her penetratingly a second, and seemed about to speak, when a servant came to the door, to say he was wanted."

"I went in that case, I fear, to see her, in a few seconds, making an effort to turn her, as I said, 'I came forward to assist her, she asked—'

"That was it, my daughter Michael said about being happy, in her room to Miss Lathrop."

"Michael had recently sent me an unsealed note in her mother's hand; but I was not to open it, as she had read it. She was one of the 'Three Graces'—Taste, Beauty, and Wisdom—and seemed to revel in her delicious atmosphere and its associations, historical and artistic, like a prisoner just freed."

"I told her, 'I feel a natural vigor, to whom he was writing.'"

"No, I thought not to distress her or Edward, until I could tell them you were better."

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G. BAILEY, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR; JOHN G. WHITTIER, CORRESPONDING EDITOR.

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bed room, and with a forced "I am ready, sir."

I followed him into the room. But I took no part in the preliminary words with which he prefaced his news, and he seemed content.

After a few tears, of genuine sorrow, I have no doubt, he went on to relate the manner of his death, having received a fatal blow from Mr. Cavendish's lawyer, Mr. Spencer, of New York.

"To work since, it seemed, that gentleman had received a brief note from Mr. Cavendish dated from New Haven, in which he spoke of going West, on business, and desired Mr. Spencer to accompany him. He reached New York the evening of the 23d, called on Mr. Spencer's office. He was absent—seemed excited, the clerks said—appointed an hour for calling in the morning, and returned to his hotel. He did not meet his appointment, and, thinking he might be ill, Mr. Spencer called to see him. He had not left his room, and, on forcing the door, they found him dead in his bed—having passed away, apparently, without a struggle."

"How coolly and deliberately he spoke, and how every low word was like a nail fastening down—encouraging—the dearest hopes of my life!"

"There was a pause, a space for the mental 'dash to dust, ashes to ashes,' and then he added—"

"He will be buried in Greenwood, by the side of his sister; and, knowing his intentions toward me, I thought I should think best to be present, and advisable at either Edward or myself, or both, should be present, particularly as his only known relative, Mr. Amey, is not in the city."

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